

TO ADD THOUSAND MEN AT ARSENAL

BARING OF GIGANTIC WIRE TAPPING PLOT IS PROMISED BY NEW YORK POLICE HEAD

Commissioner Woods Eager to Tell Secrets in Munitions Conspiracy.

NATION IS INVOLVED

Executive Hints That Intrigue Affects the American Government.

Washington, May 19.—Representative Loft of New York introduced a resolution for investigation by a house committee of five members, of tapping of wires in New York today by city authorities.

New York, May 19.—Police Commissioner Arthur Woods is ready and apparently eager today to tell the state executive committee which has begun an inquiry into police tapping of telephone wires why the police listened on the wire to the offices of the law firm of Seymour and Seymour.

After a conference in which Senator Thompson, the police commissioner, the district attorney and Mayor Mitchell took part, District Attorney Swan gave out the information that the wire in question was tapped because J. P. Morgan and company had complained that confidential cablegrams from the French government to that firm regarding the buying of war material had been stolen from the firm's offices and sold to munition manufacturers in this country.

Seymour Not in Plot. The district attorney was informed that copies of the French cablegrams had been received by men who had desk room in the offices of Seymour and Seymour, but that this firm had nothing to do with the matter. These cablegrams, the district attorney said, gave directions as to the war munitions to be purchased for France and the prices to be paid for them.

Nation Is Involved? Before testifying today, the police commissioner said the theft of the information from the Morgan offices was only one reason why the police tapped the wire. "There was another reason which I am not at liberty to tell because it has to do with most important matters affecting the national government," said Mr. Woods.

It was reported that the police had been informed that a foreign agent posing as the representative of the Russian government had purchased war munitions, ostensibly for the entente allies and had smuggled them into Mexico.

Mayor Makes Accusation. Mayor Mitchell in a statement issued from his office today accused Senator George F. Thompson, chairman of the executive committee which has been investigating wire tapping activities of the police "of treachery to the United States" because of his attempt to investigate the tapping of the telephone of the munitions dealing firm of Seymour and Seymour.

This statement was issued after Chairman Thompson had announced that the inquiry into the wire tapping would be continued at today's session although in executive session. Thompson told Corporation Counsel Lamar Hardy, representing Mayor Mitchell, that "there is not now and never was a question of international interest involved in the case." This was after Hardy had protested against further inquiry into the Seymour case on the ground that national interests were at stake if publicity was given to the case.

County Not Connected? Senator Thompson prior to this had said there was no evidence that federal authorities were connected with the wire tapping, asserting it was done by the Burns detective agency representing J. P. Morgan and company, with whom Seymour and Seymour had dealings in regard to a munitions contract.

"I don't have to prove it and I won't," replied Chairman Thompson. "This committee is prepared to go on with its investigation and I don't think it proper that there should come from any source the imputation that the investigation is interfering with questions involving the national government. It is a funny thing that no government official is in a position to know anything of the alleged government plot or knew of it except to say they heard it through the newspapers."

Sunday Faces Operation. Kansas City, Mo., May 18.—Billy Sunday will go to Baltimore immediately after his last sermon here for an operation. The evangelist is suffering from a double hernia, brought on by his strenuous work.

Lynch's Fate Is Mystery; Slated to Die

New York, May 19.—The fate of Jeremiah C. Lynch, an American citizen, who was to have been shot at daybreak in Dublin, is believed to be screened by strict censorship. No word regarding the man who had been convicted of complicity in the Irish rebellion had come over the cables up to 9 o'clock this morning. President Wilson made an 11th-hour plea for a stay of execution just before midnight last night in Washington. Owing to the difference in time Lynch was to have faced the firing squad about three hours after Wilson had directed that a cable be sent to London asking that the execution be deferred until the American government could make an investigation into the case.

It is not known here whether President Wilson's plea reached the English authorities in time to save Lynch from being executed.

Washington, May 19.—A report on the trial of Jeremiah C. Lynch, from the American consul at Dublin dated yesterday was received at the state department today from Ambassador Page at London. It said Lynch was tried yesterday by a field court martial.

An apparent omission in the coded message made its interpretation uncertain to state department officials. It was suggested, however, that Lynch was to have been either sentenced or executed at daybreak today.

Secretary Lansing's message intervening in Lynch's behalf apparently had not been received by Ambassador Page when he forwarded his report.

GERMANY CLOSES SUBCONTOVERSY

Berlin Government Lets It Be Known That Negotiations Are Considered at an End.

Washington, May 19.—Germany, considering the submarine controversy with the United States closed, has determined to make no response to the last American note upon the subject. Information to this effect is contained in confidential advices received here from Berlin.

It was indicated at the state department when the note was sent that the United States did not feel a reply was necessary and that should not be forthcoming from this government. It would make no material difference.

With the apparent end of the submarine crisis and Germany's admonition to her citizens to obey the United States to obey laws, German officials feel that the only remaining cause of friction is the case of Wolfe von Igel, secretary to the recalled German military attaché, arrested in New York in connection with a plot to blow up the Welland canal.

Count von Bernstorff has asked for the return of papers taken from Von Igel but the request so far has been refused by the state department.

ORPET DRAINING VENIRE SUPPLY

Men of Affairs Stand Chance of Being Selected in Search for Jurors in Case.

Waukegan, Ill., May 19.—Chicago capitalists, society leaders, golf enthusiasts and professors who live in Lake county today faced possibility of serving on the jury which is to try Will H. Orpet, young collegian, for the murder of Marian Lambert, his school girl sweetheart.

Venire after venire of farmers and of the most humble citizens of the county have been exhausted with small results and today the court bailiffs in their search for prospective jurors, said that if the jury was not soon completed they would have to invade the estates of wealthy residents and pass by farm house doors.

TEUTONS GET NEW FOOTING NEAR VERDUN

French Admit Gain by Germans in Terrific Assault on Hill 287.

FIGHTING IS VIOLENT

Great Battle on the Western Front Is Resumed With Added Intensity.

Berlin, May 19 (via London, 3:45 p. m.).—French troops on both sides of the Hancourt-Esnes high road, on the Verdun front, west of the Meuse, have been captured by the Germans, the war office announced today. Nine French officers and 120 men were taken prisoner.

The announcement says the captured French positions extend to the neighborhood of the southern corner of Ducks wood.

Paris, May 19, (12:01 p. m.).—Violent fighting on a large scale was resumed on the Verdun front last night. Two fresh divisions of German troops attacked French positions at Avocourt wood and Hill 204 west of the Meuse. The war office announces the attacks in the main were unsuccessful, although the Germans obtained a footing in a small post south of Hill 287, which lies just to the east of Avocourt wood.

The Germans attempted to recapture the small fort on the northeast slope of Hill 304 which the French took on the preceding day but their effort failed.

Infantry fighting was confined for the most part to the sector west of the Meuse. East of the river and in the Woivre, the artillery was active. The official statement says that the troops employed by the Germans in their attacks had recently been sent to the Verdun front.

Sub-Lieutenant Navarre, one of the best known French aviators, who recently engaged in a fight with five German aeroplanes, brought down his tenth machine in an aerial combat at Dolante in the Argonne.

French War Report.

The text of the statement follows: "In the western part of the Argonne region the enemy has endeavored to prevent a small salient of our line near St. Hubert. Our curtain of fire checked the Germans and they were thrown back into their trenches."

"On the left bank of the Meuse yesterday German forces renewed violent attacks near Avocourt wood and Hill 304. The enemy found it impossible to dislodge us, except at a small work south of Hill 287. Several endeavors to continue their progress at this point were definitely checked by the French fire."

"On the right bank of the Meuse and in the Woivre district there was moderate artillery activity."

"A German aeroplane was brought down yesterday by one of our pilots near St. Menchould; the enemy aviators were taken prisoner. Sub-Lieutenant Navarre has brought down his 10th German aeroplane near Dolante, in the Argonne."

Austro War Report.

Berlin, May 19, (by wireless to Sayville).—Austrian troops are continuing work of the auto trucks in maintaining the supply line was done largely as an auxiliary for cavalry operations. The daily ration for one soldier averages two pounds, whereas the daily ration for a horse is 11 pounds, so that the trucks were carrying a heavy proportion of their loads for the cavalry horses.

Went Without Rations. For several weeks most of the cavalry campaigned without truck trailers, either for man or horse, but this work brought out another distinctive value of thoroughly trained cavalry. This was the cavalryman's individual skill as a horseman, which enabled the men to keep their mounts alive and serviceable, not only on scanty fodder, but on no feed at all.

15 Mexicans Die at Hands of Cowboys

Field headquarters, near Namiquipa, May 19, (via wireless to Columbus, N. M.).—Twenty-five Mexican cowboys from the Hearst ranch at Babicora broke and scattered a newly formed gang of bandits near Madera, about a week ago, killing 15, wounding one and capturing six, according to news reaching here today.

The band had been organized by Atencio Dominguez and Pedro Castillo, who announced their enemy for Americans and Carranzistas. Following the theft of a number of horses from the Hearst ranch for mounts, they began a sort of guerrilla warfare.

Employees of the ranch surprised the bandits in camp near the ranch Viejo. The six taken prisoner were detained to Carranzista authorities in Madera.

Among the dead were Dominguez and Castillo, the toll bringing the number of Villista slain up to nearly 250 since the American punitive expedition was sent across the border about nine weeks ago.

The cowboys captured 30 horses, a number of rifles and other booty.

Villistas Freed? Columbus, N. M., May 19.—Ninety Villista prisoners, captured by American cavalrymen in the engagement at Ojo-Azules, Chihuahua, late in April, have been released, according to civilians returning to the border today. The prisoners were held some days and questioned in an attempt to obtain information concerning the movements of the various scattered bands and then released, it was said.

At military headquarters here the reports concerning the release were received with some surprise, although a number of prisoners have been captured during the campaign and six of them have been imprisoned in the stockade built here.

Soldiers Ill on Mexican Food. A number of American soldiers encamped between Colonia Dublan and Namiquipa recently became ill after eating food purchased from Mexicans and as a result several of the native were taken into custody, the arrivals said. Military authorities have taken steps to prevent a repetition of the danger. Heavy traffic over the motor truck trail from Columbus to Namiquipa has made it almost impassable, truck men said. In some places the road, despite efforts of the engineering corps, has become so rutted as to make impossible a greater speed than three miles an hour.

Some of the truckmen reported to the hospital upon their arrival suffering from illnesses presumably caused by the heavy loading.

Cavalry's Value Proven. Field Headquarters, May 11 (by motor truck to Columbus, N. M., May 19).—One phase of the Villa chase noted by army officers has been that the value of cavalry for scouting and all around fighting has not at all decreased.

Notwithstanding the use of aeroplanes for scouting the cavalry reconnaissance lost none of its military value. Four sets in conditions covered under which the aeroplanes could not scout—in fog, darkness, in rain, and in cloudy weather, the cavalry did its most efficient scouting in darkness, or under cover of rain clouds. Every important fight with bandits was accomplished under cover of night, which made surprise attacks possible.

Few persons, even those with the expedition, realized that the remarkable work of the auto trucks in maintaining the supply line was done largely as an auxiliary for cavalry operations. The daily ration for one soldier averages two pounds, whereas the daily ration for a horse is 11 pounds, so that the trucks were carrying a heavy proportion of their loads for the cavalry horses.

Went Without Rations. For several weeks most of the cavalry campaigned without truck trailers, either for man or horse, but this work brought out another distinctive value of thoroughly trained cavalry. This was the cavalryman's individual skill as a horseman, which enabled the men to keep their mounts alive and serviceable, not only on scanty fodder, but on no feed at all.

In all their battles the cavalrymen fought as infantry, that is dismounted, and with rifles or pistols. The difference between them and mounted infantry lay in the years of careful training which enabled them to keep the horses going under conditions so trying that probably nine-tenths of the animals would have perished under the handling of anyone except an expert horseman.

MOTHER ON STAND IN MATTERS CASE

Chicago, May 19.—Margaret Ryan, known as "Jessie Bryan," told on the witness stand today her story of her daughter whom the states charges was taken away from the mother after its birth at Misericordia hospital, Ottawa, Ontario, by Mrs. Anna Dollie Ledgerwood Matters, who is accused of trying to foist it on the probate court heir as heir to the estate of Fred Matters.

CONGRESS APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS MUNITIONS FACTORY FUNDS

(Special to The Argus.) Washington, May 19.—Practically \$2,000,000 is appropriated in the sundry civil bill, reported today, for Rock Island arsenal. Of this sum \$1,250,000 is provided for a field artillery ammunition plant, which will give employment to several hundred additional men.

The appropriations in the sundry civil bill for Rock Island arsenal are for a high service tank and connections \$20,000; for road repairs, \$13,000; for bath and toilet room addition to the barracks building, \$24,000; for one auto fire engine, \$7,500; toward providing facilities for manufacturing field artillery ammunition at a total cost not exceeding \$1,250,000; under a contract or contracts which are authorized or otherwise, \$500,000; for increasing capacity for manufacture of field artillery vehicles, \$34,000; for concrete retaining wall on east side of Fort Armstrong avenue, \$4,700; for two sets of quarters for non-commissioned officers, \$10,000; for ice making plant, \$16,000.

CLYDE H. TAVENNER.

ARSENAL MEN TO WIN THEIR POINT

Secretary Baker Announces Chicago Scale Likely Will Be Considered in Wage Demands.

Washington, May 19.—Machinists' wage scales in Chicago, and possibly other large cities, Secretary Baker indicated today, probably will be considered in increasing the pay of specially skilled employees of the Rock Island arsenal.

Secretary Baker said today he was most optimistic over prospects of a wage adjustment satisfactory to the workmen. Consideration of the increases asked practically has been reopened.

The foregoing Associated Press dispatch indicates that the men at the arsenal who have been threatening to strike unless their wage demands were met have gained their point, which is that the government, in passing on the merits of their case, should consider the Chicago scale and not confine it to the scale paid in the shops in the cities located near the arsenal.

REPUBLIC PLATFORM IS BEING LAID OUT

Chicago, May 19.—Preparation of the republican platform which will be submitted to the national convention of the party for adoption in Chicago next month has been begun according to word brought here by Fred W. Uhlman, chairman of the local committee on arrangements for the convention, who returned from New York today after a conference with Chairman C. D. Hill and other members of the republican national committee.

Strong planks favoring Americanism, military preparedness and a protective tariff for the protection of American industries, it is said, will be among the important subjects considered by those who are drafting the party platform.

STUDENT VOTERS USE "TAMMANY METHODS"

Des Moines, Iowa, May 19.—Because students at Drake university, in electing the editor of the Delphic, a school publication, used so-called "Tammany methods," the university deans have decreed that the election is void and will have to be held over again. The election expenses of one candidate are said to have totaled more than a hundred dollars.

Arbitration Sought in Norway.

Christiana, Norway, May 19, (10:47 a. m.).—The government is considering a bill for compulsory arbitration in order to avert the lockout which the Employers' association has announced will be put into effect June 3 against all union workmen. There is a grave feeling here that if the lockout is not prevented an internal conflict will be brought about which might prove a national disaster.

Item is Included in Sundry Civil Bill Which House is Asked to Pass.

PROVIDES A BIG PLANT

Step Towards Government Manufacture is Seen in Action at Washington.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., May 19.—Plans for facilities at Rock Island arsenal for manufacturing field artillery ammunition at a total cost not to exceed \$1,250,000, are authorized in the sundry civil bill reported today by the house appropriations committee.

A half million dollar plant employing 1,000 men will be added to Rock Island arsenal if the bill is reported out of the house and receives the endorsement of the senate, Colonel George W. Burr, commandant at the arsenal, said today.

The new plant will be a big step towards government manufacture and preparation. Not only will munitions be manufactured, but they will also be assembled at the plant.

"The appropriation means the erection of a plant for the manufacture and assembling of field artillery ammunition," Colonel Burr said. "It will include additions to the waterpower plant to give us more power. The shop will be very modern. It will be perhaps twice the size of one of the present shops and will cost \$500,000. The remainder of the appropriation will be used in equipping the plant."

"The new shop will be located west of the present shops on the main avenue. The shops we have now are built on a quadrangle, but represent a style of architecture long since out of date. The plan is to start a new quadrangle of modern shops west of the present ones."

"As far as the waterpower is concerned, we would have to make big changes in the plant. The machines are old, having been in use for 16 years. We would have to replace the wheels and the generators with new devices and would add to the power of the plant."

"It is a big step towards preparedness. There are a hundred plants in this vicinity that are capable of making parts of field munitions. My idea is to have a part of the plant as a place for the assembling of these parts. Plants in Moline, Rock Island, Chicago, St. Louis and numerous other cities in time of war could make the parts just as some of them are making them now."

"This is a special appropriation for this plant. It is not the regular appropriation under which we pay our operating expenses for the arsenal in general."

"In my opinion the bill has an exceptional chance of being passed, if reported out of the house. I think the senate will act favorably upon it. I have known for some time that the appropriation was to be incorporated in the bill and its promoters have expressed their belief that it has every chance of being favorably acted upon. It will mean a big addition to the arsenal."

FORD'S PARTY AIDS IN OBSERVING DAY

Stockholm, May 19.—Under the auspices of Henry Ford's neutral conference, meetings were held today through Scandinavia, Switzerland and Holland in celebration of the seventeenth anniversary of the first Hague convention. In Denmark and Sweden the meetings will be continued over several days with a big demonstration in Stockholm on Sunday. At all of the meetings resolutions are adopted urging the neutral governments to call an official conference to arrange for mediation between the belligerents.

These peace meetings are being held in nine cities of Sweden, seven of Switzerland, six of Denmark and three of Holland. In Norway they have been combined with the national celebration of Norway's independence, the anniversary of which is May 18.

DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE. Resumed debate on rivers and harbors appropriation bill. HOUSE. Begun last day of debate on shipping bill. Sundry civil bill carrying appropriations of \$127,000,000 was reported.